Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /107 W ------021004 230111Z /63

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UNCLAS ROME 11594

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: AORG, UNDP

SUBJECT: UNDP OVERHEAD COSTS

1. FAO ADG WEST GAVE U.S. REP BAKER JUNE 20 VARIOUS COMMENTS OF INTEREST ON WORKING GROUP ON OVERHEAD COSTS.

A. HE COMPLIMENTED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUP DESCRIBING IT AS RESTRAINED AND REASONED.

B. HE NOTED THAT U.N. (PRESUMABLY OTC OPPOSITION TO JIU APPROACH WAS, IF ANYTHING, HARDER THAN FAO'S.

C. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE LITTLE IF ANY LATITUDE FROM FAO TO NEGOTIATE FORMULA WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF PARA 12 OF DRAFT WORKING GROUP DECISION.

D. NEVER THELESS, HE HINTED THAT, IF OTHER AGENCIES DID SO, HE BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE FAO COULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT AN ECONOMIES OF SCALE APPROACH PROVIDING SLIGHTLY LOWER PERCENTAGE REIMBURSE-MENT ON PROJECT DELIVERY OVER AND ABOVE AN AGREED LEVEL SUCH AS \$90 OR \$100 MILLION ANNUALLY OF UNDP PROJECTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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E. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF LOWERPERCENTAGE FACTOR FOR EQUIPMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED ON TRUST FUND PROJECTS -AS WE KNOW FROM AID EXPERIENCE) WERE NOT WORKED OUT ON UNDP PROJECTS, MEMBER STATES WOULD GRADUALLY PERCEIVE THAT THEY COULD GET BETTER VALUE BY GOING TRUST FUND ROUTE THAN THRU UNDP.

F. HE BELIEVED REPORT REQUESTED IN PARA 15 OF DRAFT DECISION WOULD GET NOWHERE AS IDEA UNWORKABLE, OR AT LEAST, ADMINISTRATIVELY CUMBERSOME.GARDNER

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